

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 755

By Watson

A RESOLUTION honoring the memory and legacy of John Simmons of Bradley County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor the memory of those outstanding Tennesseans who, through their extraordinary efforts, dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, John Simmons, an advocate and champion on behalf of veterans, is remembered as one such outstanding individual; and

WHEREAS, highly involved in all facets of advocacy for his fellow veterans, Mr. Simmons touched the lives of many, leaving an indelible mark of hope and determination on all who crossed his path; and

WHEREAS, in remembrance and honor of the unique life of John Simmons, the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs designated November 19, 2009, as a day of recognition of the invaluable work and tireless efforts he made on behalf of his fellow veterans and community; and

WHEREAS, a native of Bradley County, he attended Arnold School and graduated from Bradley High School; and

WHEREAS, after attending Tennessee Wesleyan College, he joined the United States Navy, honorably and heroically serving from 1966 until 1970; and

WHEREAS, during his military career, he was assigned to Bethesda Naval Hospital before serving with the utmost integrity and character as a corpsman with the 1st Marine Division combat unit in Vietnam during 1969 and 1970, earning the respect and admiration of his fellow soldiers and superiors alike for the quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, volunteering his time and energies to a number of veterans service organizations, John Simmons dedicated to each his coveted no-nonsense leadership style; he served as Service Officer for American Legion Post 81, as an active member of the Tennessee State Veteran's Home Board, and as Chairman of the Site Sub-Committee of the local Southeast Tennessee Veteran's Home Council, where he was deeply committed to the idea of building a State Veteran's Affairs (VA) Home in Bradley County; and

WHEREAS, hailing from Tennessee House District 22 and Tennessee Senatorial District 9, Mr. Simmons was often called upon for his energy and invaluable expertise in the political arena, spending countless hours soliciting support from Tennessee legislators on behalf of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simmons epitomized the ideal of the consummate professional and was recognized with numerous awards of distinction, including the 2008 Tennessee Outstanding Volunteer of the Year by the Disabled American Veterans organization; and

WHEREAS, he was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simmons enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Sharon Simmons, and was the proud and loving father of his daughter, Penny Farmer, and his son, Grant Pirkle; and

WHEREAS, epitomizing the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean, Mr. Simmons leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John Simmons for his stalwart dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.